



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/678,997	10/03/2003	Albert James Yovichin	DN2003169	8922

27280 7590 08/15/2006

THE GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT 823
1144 EAST MARKET STREET
AKRON, OH 44316-0001

EXAMINER

MACKEY, JAMES P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	1722

DATE MAILED: 08/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/678,997	YOVICHIN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James Mackey	1722	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 August 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 6-10 and 16-19 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1722

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 04 August 2006 has been entered.

2. Claims 11-15 stand withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 21 March 2006.

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fike (U.S. Patent 6,177,042; Figures 8-10).

Fike '042 teaches a segmented annular mold comprising a plurality of radially movable and outwardly expandable inner segments N, W each having upper and lower lateral edge forming portions extending outwardly to a parting line (as clearly shown in Figures 8-10), a plurality of radially movable and contracting outer segments 72 each having upper and lower lateral edge forming portions extending inwardly to the parting line (as clearly shown in Figures 8-10), and holding means including a slidable hub assembly 42, 62 (slidable relative to central shaft 56) having an inner backing cone 74 for maintaining the inner segments at relatively constant dimension during molding (col. 6, lines 57-59). Note that a recitation with respect to

the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations, *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647; purpose to which apparatus is to be put and expression relating apparatus to contents thereof during intended operation are not significant in determining patentability of an apparatus claim, *Ex parte Thibault*, 164 USPQ 666; the manner or method in which a machine is to be utilized is not germane to the issue of patentability of the machine itself, *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235.

5. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Satzler (U.S. Patent 4,207,052; Figures 1-4).

Satzler teaches a segmented annular mold comprising a plurality of radially movable and outwardly expandable inner segments 14, 16 each having upper and lower lateral edge forming portions extending outwardly to a parting line (as clearly shown in Figures 3-4), a plurality of radially movable and contracting outer segments 106 each having upper and lower lateral edge forming portions extending inwardly to the parting line (as clearly shown in Figures 3-4), and holding means including a slidable hub assembly 20, 22, 30 (slidable relative to guiding slide 28) for maintaining the inner segments at relatively constant dimension during molding (col. 3, lines 24-26). Note that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations, *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647; purpose to which apparatus is to be put and expression relating apparatus to contents thereof during intended operation are not significant in determining patentability of an apparatus claim, *Ex*

Art Unit: 1722

parte Thibault, 164 USPQ 666; the manner or method in which a machine is to be utilized is not germane to the issue of patentability of the machine itself, *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235.

6. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pacciarini et al. (U.S. Patent 3,358,330; Figures 3-6).

Pacciarini et al. teach a segmented annular mold comprising a plurality of radially movable and outwardly expandable inner segments 25-28 each having upper and lower lateral edge forming portions extending outwardly to a parting line (as clearly shown in Fig. 3), a plurality of radially movable and contracting outer segments 14 each having upper and lower lateral edge forming portions extending inwardly to the parting line (as clearly shown in Fig. 3), and holding means 105, 107 for maintaining the inner segments at relatively constant dimension during molding. Note that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations, *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647; purpose to which apparatus is to be put and expression relating apparatus to contents thereof during intended operation are not significant in determining patentability of an apparatus claim, *Ex parte Thibault*, 164 USPQ 666; the manner or method in which a machine is to be utilized is not germane to the issue of patentability of the machine itself, *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235.

7. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brown (U.S. Patent 2,381,395; Figures 1-11).

Brown teaches a segmented annular mold comprising a plurality of radially movable and outwardly expandable inner segments 29, 37 each having upper and lower lateral edge forming portions extending outwardly to a parting line (as clearly shown in Figures 8-11), a plurality of

radially movable and contracting outer segments 24 each having upper and lower lateral edge forming portions extending inwardly to the parting line (as clearly shown in Figures 8-11), and holding means 26, 27, 31, 36 for maintaining the inner segments at relatively constant dimension during molding. Note that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations, *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647; purpose to which apparatus is to be put and expression relating apparatus to contents thereof during intended operation are not significant in determining patentability of an apparatus claim, *Ex parte Thibault*, 164 USPQ 666; the manner or method in which a machine is to be utilized is not germane to the issue of patentability of the machine itself, *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235.

8. Claim 6-10 and 16-19 are allowed.

Claim 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

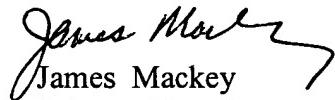
The prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest a segmented annular mold including a plurality of outer mold segments, a plurality of radially movable inner mold segments, and a slidable hub assembly having a central shaft, an upper hub portion and a lower hub portion each slidably mounted onto the central shaft, the hub portions being connected to the inner segments.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Mackey whose telephone number is 571-272-1135. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.

Art Unit: 1722

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Yogendra Gupta can be reached on 571-272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


James Mackey
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1722

8/13/06

jpm
August 13, 2006